

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO: 70477

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : BURGSTALER et al.  
PCT No : PCT/DE01/02972  
Filed : April 10, 2002  
For : ASSEMBLY UNIT FOR A MOTOR VEHICLE  
Dated : March 26, 2002

Hon. Commissioner of Patents  
and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the specification originally filed, with the enclosed substitute specification. A marked up copy of the original specification is attached. Applicant states that no new matter has been added.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 to 8 as follows:

1. (AMENDED) An assembly unit for a motor vehicle, the assembly unit comprising:  
a bearing block having mounts; a bolt; and a lever arm arranged in said bearing block pivotably  
around an axis of said bolt fixed in said mounts, said bearing block having at least one section  
opening or expanding in case of an accident as a consequence of force acting on the assembly

5 unit, so that the bolt disengages from said mounts as a consequence of the acting force, said bolt having an at least two-part design and having at least one connection area on which individual bolt parts are engaged with one another in a positive-locking and nonpositive manner.

2. (AMENDED) An assembly unit for a motor vehicle in accordance with claim 1, wherein said lever arm comprises a pedal.

3. (AMENDED) An assembly unit for a motor vehicle in accordance with claim 1, wherein the connection between said individual bolt parts is an elastic snap connection.

4. (AMENDED) An assembly unit for a motor vehicle in accordance with claim 1, wherein a first bolt part has an end slotted at least once with said hook-shaped areas, on whose side facing another bolt part tapering sections are present.

5. (AMENDED) An assembly unit for a motor vehicle in accordance with claim 4, wherein on the end side said another bolt part has an engaging contour, behind which extend said hook-shaped areas of said first bolt part.

6. (AMENDED) An assembly unit for a motor vehicle in accordance with claim 1, further comprising bearing elements for mounting said bolt rotatably and slidingly, said bearing elements being inserted into said mounts of said bearing block.

7. (AMENDED) An assembly unit for a motor vehicle in accordance with claim 6, wherein said bearing elements are multilayer bearings.

8. (AMENDED) An assembly unit for a motor vehicle in accordance with claim 6, wherein said lever arm is supported with flange-like sections at said bearing element of said bearing block on both sides when viewed in an axial direction of said bolt and said lever arm has a stop on an inner contour, said stop forming a contact surface with associated contact surfaces of said bolt.

Please add the following new claims:

9. (NEW) An assembly unit for a motor vehicle, the assembly unit comprising:

a lever arm;

a bearing block having mounts with at least one section opening or expanding in case of an accident as a consequence of force acting on the assembly unit;

a bolt fixed in said mounts so as to disengage from said mounts as a consequence of the section opening or expanding from the acting force of an accident, said lever arm being arranged in the bearing block pivotable around an axis of said bolt, said bolt comprising a first part engaged with a second part with a releasable locking connection.

10. (NEW) An assembly unit for a motor vehicle in accordance with claim 9, wherein said lever arm comprises a pedal.

11. (NEW) An assembly unit for a motor vehicle in accordance with claim 9, wherein the connection between said individual bolt parts is an elastic snap connection.

12. (NEW) An assembly unit for a motor vehicle in accordance with claim 9, wherein said first bolt part has an end slotted at least once with hook-shaped areas and a side facing said second bolt part with tapering sections.

13. (NEW) An assembly unit for a motor vehicle in accordance with claim 12, wherein on the end side said second bolt part has an engaging contour with said hook-shaped areas of said first bolt part extending behind said engaging contour.

14. (NEW) An assembly unit for a motor vehicle in accordance with claim 9, further comprising bearing elements for mounting said bolt rotatably and slidingly, said bearing elements being inserted into said mounts of said bearing block.

15. (NEW) An assembly unit for a motor vehicle in accordance with claim 14, wherein said bearing elements are multilayer bearings.

16. (NEW) An assembly unit for a motor vehicle in accordance with claim 14, wherein said lever arm is supported with flange-like sections at said bearing element of said bearing block on both sides when viewed in an axial direction of said bolt and said lever arm has a stop

5 on an inner contour, said stop forming a contact surface with associated contact surfaces of said bolt.

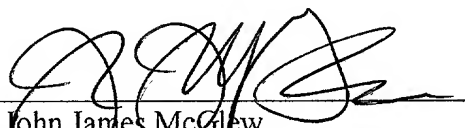
REMARKS

Claims 1 through 16 are in this application and are presented for consideration. Claims 1 through 8 have been amended. The amended claims present the same subject matter as the original claims but have been amended to adapt them to the U. S. style. The new claims present subject matter similar to the original claims, but in a different form.

The specification and claims have been amended in order to place this application in better form. The reference to claims in the specification has been deleted or amended. Appropriate headings have been added. No new matter has been added.

Favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted  
for Applicant,

By:   
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McGLEW AND TUTTLE, P.C.

JJM:jj  
70477.1

Enclosed: Version of Claims Showing Changes, Substitute Specification and Marked up copy of Translation

DATED: March 26, 2002  
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BY: *Walter A. Forte* DATE: March 26, 2002

Version of Claims Showing Changes

1. ~~[— Assembly]~~ (AMENDED) An assembly unit for a motor vehicle ~~[with a said lever arm (4) arranged in a]~~, the assembly unit comprising: a bearing block having mounts; a bolt; and a lever arm arranged in said bearing block ~~[(1)]~~ pivotably around ~~[a said]~~ an axis ~~[(2)]~~ of ~~[n a]~~ said bolt ~~[(3)]~~ fixed in said mounts ~~[(5), (6) of the bearing block, wherein the]~~ said bearing block ~~[(1) has]~~ having at least one ~~[said]~~ section ~~[(7, 8)]~~ opening or expanding in case of an accident as a consequence of force acting on the assembly unit, so that the bolt disengages ~~[the] from~~ said mounts ~~[(5, 6)]~~ as a consequence of the acting force, {

~~— characterized in that~~

~~— after the assembly of the assembly unit, the~~ said bolt ~~[(3), which has]~~ having an at least two-part design ~~[(has)]~~ and having at least one ~~[said]~~ connection area ~~[(9), ]on which [the said]~~ individual bolt parts ~~[(10, 11)]~~ are engaged with one another in a positive-locking and nonpositive manner.

2. ~~[— Assembly]~~ (AMENDED) An assembly unit for a motor vehicle in accordance with claim 1, {

~~— characterized in that~~

~~— the] wherein~~ said lever arm ~~[(4) is]~~ comprises a pedal.

3. ~~[— Assembly]~~ (AMENDED) An assembly unit for a motor vehicle in accordance with ~~[one of the above]~~ claim[s] 1, {

~~— characterized in that~~

~~— ] wherein~~ the connection between ~~[the]~~ said individual bolt parts ~~[(10 and 11)]~~ is an elastic snap connection.

4. ~~[— Assembly]~~ (AMENDED) An assembly unit for a motor vehicle in accordance with ~~[one of the above]~~ claim[s] 1, {

~~characterized in that~~

~~— a said]~~ wherein a first bolt part ~~[(10)]~~ has an end slotted at least once with said hook-shaped areas ~~[(12)]~~, on whose side facing ~~[the said other]~~ another bolt part ~~[(11) said]~~ tapering sections ~~[(20)]~~ are present.

5. ~~[— Assembly]~~ (AMENDED) An assembly unit for a motor vehicle in accordance with claim 4, {

~~— characterized in that~~

~~— ] wherein~~ on the end side ~~[(the)]~~ said another bolt part ~~[(11)]~~ has an engaging contour, behind which extend ~~[the]~~ said hook-shaped areas ~~[(12)]~~ of ~~[the]~~ said first bolt part ~~[(10)]~~.

6. ~~[— Assembly]~~ (AMENDED) An assembly unit for a motor vehicle in accordance with ~~[one of the above]~~ claim[s] 1, {

~~— characterized in that~~

—said} further comprising bearing elements {(15, 16), by which the}for mounting said bolt{(3)is mounted} rotatably and slidingly, {are}said bearing elements being inserted into [the }said mounts {(5, 6)}off[ the} said bearing block{(1)}.

7.[—Assembly}(AMENDED) An assembly unit for a motor vehicle in accordance with claim 6,{

—characterized in that

—the} wherein said bearing elements{(15, 16)} are multilayer bearings.

8.[—Assembly}(AMENDED) An assembly unit for a motor vehicle in accordance with claim 6[or 7,

—characterized in that

—the}, wherein said lever arm{(4)} is supported with[said} flange-like sections {(13, 14)}at[ the} said bearing element {(15, 16)} off[ the} said bearing block{(1)} on both sides when viewed in [the}an axial direction of [the }said bolt {(3)}and said lever arm has a [said }stop {(17)}on [its}an inner contour, said stop forming a contact surface with[ which said} associated contact surfaces {(18, 19)}off[ the} said bolt{(3)}are in contact}.